

- **Taking Precautions During Mosquito Season**
- **Dairy Twilight Barn Meeting – July 18th**
- **MNLA & Flower Growers Summer Conference & Trade Show – July 26**

Taking Precautions During Mosquito Season



Mosquito season is here and with the season comes concern about infected mammal-biting mosquitoes. As local mosquito control programs and state officials actively monitor mosquito pools in the Commonwealth, residents are urged to take precautions to avoid mosquito bites. Protect yourself and your loved ones by covering up, using repellent and avoiding the peak mosquito hours of dusk to dawn.

Massachusetts residents are reminded to not only take measures to protect themselves but also domestic animals they may own.

Fortunately for animal owners, there are precautionary measures that can be taken to protect against mosquito-borne diseases like West Nile Virus (WNV) and Eastern Equine Encephalitis virus (EEE), including vaccinations.

There are effective vaccines for both WNV and EEE available for horses. The best time to vaccinate animals is in May, before the height of mosquito season. However, since exposures can occur well into October, any unaffected equine can still benefit from the protection of vaccination. It takes several weeks for an animal to be fully protected by a vaccine. Foals may be vaccinated as early as 2-3 months of age when there is an increased disease risk. Animals infected by EEE and WNV develop neurologic symptoms that can lead to death. There is no treatment for either infection, although supportive care can be provided. In addition to horses, WNV and EEE pose a serious risk to other species, including ratites (e.g. ostrich, emu), pheasants, llamas and alpacas. Owners of those species should consult with their veterinarian about vaccinations.

Animal owners should also reduce potential mosquito breeding sites on their property by eliminating standing water from containers such as buckets, tires, and wading pools – especially after heavy rains. Water troughs provide excellent mosquito breeding habitats and should be flushed out at least once a week during the summer months to reduce mosquitoes near paddock areas. Horse owners should keep horses in indoor stalls at night to reduce their risk of exposure to mosquitoes.

If an animal is diagnosed with WNV or EEE, owners are required to report to MDAR, Division of Animal Health by calling 617-626-1795 and to the Department of Public Health (DPH) by calling 617-983-6800.

Dairy Twilight Barn Meeting – July 18th

Wednesday, July 18, 2012, 5:30 - 8:00 PM

Hosted by: Stillman Dairy Farm, 991 Lancaster Avenue, Lunenburg, MA
Central Massachusetts Dairy Producers' Association, Univ. of Massachusetts Extension & Expt. Stn.,
Massachusetts Dept. of Agricultural Resources, Massachusetts Div. of Energy Resources, USDA - Natural
Resources Conservation Service, USDA - Farm Service Agency

5:30 PM - Registration and Barn Visit

6:00 PM - What's going on at Stillman Dairy Farm, Bud Stillman – Stillman Dairy Farm

6:30 PM - Center for Agriculture and Changes in Academic Programming in Stockbridge School of Agriculture,
Stephen Herbert

6:45 PM - Massachusetts Farm Energy Program (MFEP) Gerry Palano – MA Department of Agriculture
Research (MDAR)

7:00 PM - Dairy Legislation Updates - Henry Gillette & Brad Mitchell – Massachusetts Farm Bureau Federation

7:15 PM - Research Update - corn, energy crops, Masoud Hashemi - UMass Extension

7:30 PM - USDA and State Agency Updates

8:00 PM - Adjourn

Open to all interested. For more information contact Masoud Hashemi at (413) 545-1843,
masoud@psis.umass.edu or Mallory Ottariano at (413) 545-5221, mottaria@psis.umass.edu. For directions to
Stillman Farm visit: <http://extension.umass.edu/cdle/events/twilight-barn-meeting>

MNLA & Flower Growers Summer Conference & Trade Show – July 26

Thursday, July 26, 2012 – 9:00 AM - 3:30 PM

Location: Elm Bank, Wellesley, MA

Sponsored by:

Massachusetts Nursery and Landscape Association

Massachusetts Flower Growers Association

In cooperation with: UMass Extension

Who should attend? Garden Centers, Retail and Wholesale Nurseries, Greenhouse Growers, Landscape Contractors, Maintenance, Designers and Architects. If you are in the green industry, you won't want to miss this great opportunity for education, re-certification and networking! Take advantage of the new ideas & cutting edge information that will put you "steps" ahead of your competitors!

REDUCED PRE-REGISTRATION RATE ENDS MONDAY JULY 16TH!

Educational Program Topics include:

- * Composts: Evaluation & Use in Production and in the Landscape (1 pesticide contact hour)
- * Revolutionary Garden Centers
- * Annual Trial Gardens at Elm Bank

- * Impacts of the Asian Longhorn Beetle on Energy Use in Cities
- * Alternative Planting Methods for Trees in the Nursery and What Buyers Should Know
- * Perennial Gardens at Elm Bank
- * Strategic Marketing of Green Industry Products
- * QR Codes Project at Elm Bank
- * Case Studies of Landscape Designs in Massachusetts
- * Scouting for Pests in Landscapes (1 pesticide contact hour)

Pesticide contact hours available: Two for category 29, 36, and Applicator's License; one for category 26.

To see the entire program with topics and speakers, go to

www.mnla.com/wp-content/uploads/2012/06/MNLA-Summer-Meeting-FULL-RES-0530121.pdf

Details and registration at www.mnla.com.



MDAR's mission is to ensure the long-term viability of agriculture in Massachusetts. Through its four divisions – Agricultural Conservation & Technical Assistance, Agricultural Markets, Animal Health, and Crop and Pest Services – MDAR strives to support, regulate and enhance the rich diversity of the Commonwealth's agricultural community to promote economically and environmentally sound food safety and animal health measures, and fulfill agriculture's role in energy conservation and production. For more information, visit MDAR's website at mass.gov/agr, and/or follow at twitter.com/MDARCommish. For our ongoing list of events and workshops visit and bookmark: www.mass.gov/agr/events/coming_up.htm.